

Section 208. – The conference agreement includes section 208, modified from a provision in the Senate, to provide \$28,260,000 within the “National Institute of Standards and Technology, Construction of Research Facilities” account, for five ~~construction~~ projects. The House did not contain a similar provision.

Section 209. – The conference agreement includes section 209, included in the Senate, to provide \$10,000,000 for an Alaskan Seafood marketing program. The House did not contain a similar provision.

Section 210. –The conference agreement includes section 210, included in the Senate, to authorize and appropriate \$50,000,000 for travel and tourism grant program. The House did not include a similar provision.

Section 211. –The conference agreement includes section 211, included in the Senate, to exempt two foreign-built cruise ships to engage in service between and among the islands of Hawaii. The section is modified to prohibit vessels access.

Section 212. – The conference agreement includes section 212, included in the Senate, designating requirements for a certain fishing capacity reduction program for the West Coast groundfish fishery. The House did not contain a similar provision.

Section 213. – The conference agreement includes section 213, a new provision, allowing the Secretary of Commerce up to \$3,000,000 from receipts from the Coastal Zone Management Fund.

²¹³ Section ~~214~~. – The conference agreement includes section ~~214~~, a new provision, allowing the National Weather Service to engage in a certain lease arrangement to be funded from base resources.

²¹⁴ Section ~~215~~. – The conference agreement includes section ~~215~~, a new provision, designating certain programs under the "Coastal Assistance sub-category" in section 250 (c)(4)(K) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

Conservation Category

TITLE III—THE JUDICIARY

The conferees do not agree with the practice of the Judiciary of displaying significant program increases as adjustments to base. The conferees direct the Judiciary to discontinue this practice.

The conferees expect the Judiciary to submit a financial plan, allocating all sources of available funds including appropriations, fee collections, and carryover balances. The Judiciary should consider this financial plan to be the baseline for reprogramming and expects the plan to be submitted within 30 days after enactment of this Act.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$45,743,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Supreme Court, as provided by the House, instead of \$44,399,000 as provided by the Senate. The conference agreement provides increases for information technology and security related initiatives.

The conferees are aware of continued concerns about the number of minority law clerks at the Supreme Court. The Conferees are appreciative of the Court's responsiveness in providing

information regarding its hiring practices and encourages the Court and the Judicial Conference of the United States to continue to make progress in this matter.

CARE OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The conference agreement includes \$41,626,000 for the Supreme Court "Care of the Building and Grounds" account, as provided by the House, instead of \$53,304,000 as provided by the Senate. The conference agreement is \$12,000,000 below the request for the Supreme Court building renovation project. The conferees understand that these additional obligations will occur in subsequent fiscal years and therefore may be budgeted in those fiscal years.

The conferees recognize there are security concerns related to the building modernization project and the Architect of the Capitol is directed to ensure that the Court's security concerns are addressed throughout the procurement and construction of the project. The conferees direct the Architect of the Capitol to submit the Committees on Appropriations, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, a financial plan and schedule for this project.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$20,313,000 for the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, instead of \$20,490,000 as provided by the House and \$20,136,000 as provided by the Senate.

The conferees recognize that the Court has additional information technology and facility renovation requirements. However, the conferees also understand that between March 1992 and March 2001, filings have decreased by 13 percent. The conferees recommend the Court examine its base operating budget to identify funding that could be used to meet the Court's remaining information technology and facilities requirements. No funding is provided to establish a deputy circuit executive position.

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$13,687,000 for the U.S. Court of International Trade, as provided by the House, instead of \$13,529,000 as provided by the Senate. The conferees are pleased with the Court's utilization of the Judiciary Information Technology Fund to upgrade and enhance the Court's use of information technology without requiring additional appropriations.

COURTS OF APPEALS, DISTRICT COURTS, AND OTHER JUDICIAL SERVICES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement provides \$3,800,000,000 for the salaries and expenses of the Courts of Appeals, District Courts and Other Judicial Services. Within the funding provided, the Conferees direct not less than \$10,000,000 for facilities enhancements to meet requirements associated with high threat trials and to upgrade the Judiciary's mail handling operations.

VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION TRUST FUND

The conference agreement provides \$2,784,000 from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund as provided by both the House and the Senate.

DEFENDER SERVICES

The conference agreement includes \$538,461,000 for the Federal Judiciary's Defender Services account, instead of \$545,129,000 as provided by the House and \$531,792,000 as provided by the Senate.

The conference agreement includes an increase of \$30,066,000 to annualize the panel attorney rate increase provided in fiscal year 2002. This increase brought panel attorney hourly rates up to \$90 for in-court and out-of-court hours. This was the first significant increase in

private panel attorney hourly rates since 1986 and represents a 20 percent increase in the in-court rate and a 64 percent increase in the out-of-court rate.

In fiscal year 2003, the Judicial Conference requested an increase in the panel attorney rate to \$113 per hour, which if approved would amount to a 25 percent increase over the rate approved in fiscal year 2002. Because it was recently implemented, the Judicial Conference is unable to document the impact of the significant increase provided in fiscal year 2002 to determine if that rate is sufficient to solve the problem of obtaining adequate counsel for CJA representations. In addition, from 1987 to 2001, the Congress and the Judicial Conference provided a higher hourly rate in 16 districts than the standard rate provided in the other 78 lower-cost districts. The conferees understand that there continues to be disparities throughout the country in the costs to provide legal representation, and yet the Judicial Conference's requested \$113 hourly rate would reimburse panel attorneys at the same rate nationally.

Because of these uncertainties between localities, the size of the increase approved in fiscal year 2002, and the level of funding required to annualize this increase in fiscal year 2003, the conference agreement does not include the requested additional increase in the hourly rate this fiscal year. The conferees expect the Judicial Conference, before requesting any future rate increases, to consider the concerns described above. The conferees also expect any future rate increases requested above inflation to be justified as a program increase.

FEES OF JURORS AND COMMISSIONERS

The conference agreement includes \$54,636,000 for Fees of Jurors and Commissioners, as provided by the House and Senate.

COURT SECURITY

The conference agreement includes \$270,400,000 for the Federal Judiciary's Court Security Account, instead of \$286,200,000 as provided by the House and \$276,342,000 as provided by the Senate. In addition, the conference agreement includes \$15,800,000 in the U.S. Marshals Service, Salaries and Expenses account for supervisory deputy marshals previously funded in this account. (268,400,000)

In order to address the courts' security requirements, funding for this program has increased by approximately 50 percent since fiscal year 2001. However, the conferees are concerned that as the program has grown, sufficient attention has not been provided to program and budget administration, especially oversight of court security officer funding, positions and full-time equivalents. The conferees expect that the funding provided in the conference agreement will significantly improve this deficiency.

The conferees understand that this is a unique account appropriated to the Judiciary but primarily managed by the Department of Justice. The Committee expects the Director of the U.S. Marshals Service to provide the same level of budgetary and program oversight to this program as programs appropriated directly to the U.S. Marshals Service.

Within the level of funding provided, the conferees direct U.S. Marshals Service to conduct a study with an independent consultant on the management of this program and the unique relationship between the Federal Judiciary, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Federal Protective Service in administering this program and providing facilities security for the Judiciary.

The conferees expect future budget justifications to clearly display the level and types of court security equipment and systems requested compared to the current year.

Within the level of funding provided, \$1,000,000 shall be transferred to the U.S. Marshals Service for a courthouse security survey to be conducted by the Judicial Security Divison/Judicial Security Systems personnel.

Following the September 11th and anthrax attacks, the Judiciary was directed in the Conference Report accompanying Public Law 107-117, to consider establishing a court operations support center located outside of Washington, D.C. The Judiciary's study, conducted by an independent expert and endorsed by the Judicial Conference, recommends establishing a small leased facility at least 20 miles outside of Washington, D.C. This facility would help ensure continuity of operations in the event that administrative and automation support functions are shut down as a result of the closure of the Thurgood Marshal Federal Judiciary Building (TMFJB). The Judiciary's study recommends transferring portions of the courts' payroll processing, financial disbursing, and information technology support to this new facility. The study also recommends that this facility be within a reasonable travel range of the TMFJB so that

it can be utilized by essential Administrative Office and court staff in the event that certain facilities located in Washington D.C. are shut down. The conferees direct the Judiciary to establish a judiciary automation and communications operations facility consistent with its study at an economically feasible location. The conferees expect costs of this facility to be absorbed within existing available resources as proposed by the Judiciary. The conferees encourage the Judiciary to find alternative uses for the facility during non-emergency periods. However, the primary design goal of the facility should be continuity of operations. As recommended in the study, the conferees direct the Judiciary to provide telework opportunities at this facility.

As discussed in the beginning of Title III, a financial plan is required to be submitted for this program.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$63,500,000 for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$20,856,000 for salaries and expenses of the Federal Judicial Center as provided by the House, instead of \$20,156,000 as provided by the Senate.

JUDICIAL RETIREMENT FUNDS

PAYMENT TO JUDICIAL TRUST FUNDS

The conference agreement includes \$35,300,000 for payment to various judicial retirement funds, as provided by both the House and Senate.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$12,090,000 for the U.S. Sentencing Commission, instead of \$12,344,000 as provided by the House and \$11,835,000 as provided by the Senate. As part of the financial plan discussed at the beginning of this title, the Commission is directed to provide plan for the utilization of carryover balances.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THE JUDICIARY

Section 301.—The conference agreement includes a provision included by both the House and Senate allowing appropriations to be used for services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109.

Section 302.—The conference agreement includes a provision included in the House related to the transfer of funds. The Senate included a similar provision.

Section 303.—The conference agreement includes a provision included in by the House allowing up to \$11,000 of salaries and expenses provided in this title to be used for official representation expenses of the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Senate included a similar provision.

TITLE IV--DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

In total, the conference agreement includes \$7,900,660,000 for the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors. Of the total amount provided, \$7,762,460,000 is derived from general purpose discretionary funds and \$138,200,000 is scored as mandatory spending. This funding level includes significant program increases to improve diplomatic readiness and security. The conference agreement includes the full amount requested, \$1,308,000,000, to continue worldwide security activities, including the design and construction of replacement facilities for the most vulnerable overseas posts.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The conference agreement for the Department of State is intended to continue the Department's efforts to achieve diplomatic readiness, strengthen diplomatic and border security, and to institute sweeping management reforms. In fiscal year 2002, the Congress enacted an appropriations increase of 16.8 percent to the Department's operating budget, including funding to support the hiring and training of an additional 910 employees.

The conference agreement includes a total of \$7,394,026,000 for fiscal year 2003 for the Department of State. Of the total amount provided, \$7,255,826,000 is derived from general purpose discretionary funds and \$138,200,000 is scored as mandatory spending. The overall funding level for fiscal year 2003 represents an additional 8.6 percent increase to the operating budget, which will support up to 585 additional new positions. The conferees expect that this funding level will allow the

Department to meet critical embassy security and staffing requirements, modernize its technology and equipment, and continue vigorous management reform initiatives to right-size America's overseas presence.

The conference agreement includes a total of \$5,587,293,000 for the discretionary appropriation accounts under Administration of Foreign Affairs; \$1,539,710,000 for International Organizations and Conferences; \$57,504,000 for International Commissions; and \$71,319,000 for Other activities. The conferees' priorities for the Department of State are delineated in the following paragraphs.

Administration of Foreign Affairs

diplomatic and consular programs

The conference agreement includes \$3,822,258,000 for the Diplomatic and Consular Programs account, including \$553,000,000 to continue funding for worldwide security upgrades and \$292,693,000 for public diplomacy programs. The conference agreement represents an increase of \$192,246,000 above the fiscal year 2002 appropriation. Within this total, the funding level for worldwide security upgrades is \$65,265,000 above the fiscal year 2002 level and the same amount as requested.

This appropriation provides for the formulation and execution of United States foreign policy, including the conduct of diplomatic and consular relations with foreign countries, diplomatic relations with international organizations, and related activities. The account includes funding for all of the program and operations bureaus and offices of the Department of State and the Foreign Service.

The conference agreement includes funding for program activities described below:

Diplomatic Readiness Initiatives.--The conference agreement includes a program increase of \$70,000,000 for the diplomatic readiness initiative to support the hiring and training of approximately 399 new foreign service and civil service employees. Before obligation of these funds the Department shall provide the Committees, through the regular reprogramming process, a comprehensive spending and staffing plan accompanied by materials demonstrating any and all right-sizing analyses and actions taken worldwide since the issuance of the Overseas Presence Advisory Panel report in 1999. The Department may propose, through the reprogramming process, to reallocate funding under the diplomatic readiness initiative for critical foreign national hiring needs. The conferees expect that the highest priority will be placed on new positions in Near East and South Asia. The program increase described below for public diplomacy includes funding for additional foreign national public diplomacy staffing overseas.

Public Diplomacy Programs.--The conference agreement includes language specifying that \$292,693,000 is available only for Public Diplomacy programs. The integration of the United States Information Agency into the State Department in fiscal year 2000 resulted in public diplomacy resources being spread across several different bureaus. The conferees believe that separately identifying total resource levels will facilitate the Committees' ability to monitor funding levels and trends for these activities. The amount identified for public diplomacy programs includes the costs of personnel and programs throughout the

Department. The conferees expect the Department to identify all organizational impediments to optimal performance of public diplomacy programs, and propose the necessary changes through the reprogramming process.

The conference agreement includes a program increase of \$10,300,000 for public diplomacy programs. This funding will support expansion of InfoUSA content, and other internet-based information programs, including the translation of content into Arabic and South Asian languages, as well as the continuation of programs in the Arab and Muslim world initiated with fiscal year 2002 supplemental funding. This funding will also support surveys and research to improve effectiveness of public diplomacy programs, and increased local staffing worldwide.

The conferees acknowledge the critical role that public diplomacy will play in the global war against terror. The Department will not be successful in its important public diplomacy mission unless it is guided by a comprehensive, sustained strategy for program execution. The Department is directed to submit a Public Diplomacy Strategy to the Committees on Appropriations no later than June 1, 2003. The conferees understand that the need for interagency coordination in international public information programs has resulted in the creation of the White House Office of Global Communications. The use of any funds provided to the Department of State under this Act or any prior Act for initiatives or programs of the Office of Global Communications must be approved in advance by the Committees on Appropriations.

Africa Policy Advisory Panel.— The conference agreement includes language authorizing the Secretary to create an Africa Policy Advisory

Panel, and provides up to \$500,000 to fund related costs. The conferees expect that this panel will be appointed by the Secretary and will deliver its final report to the Secretary no later than one year from the enactment of this Act. The conferees believe that the U.S. Government too frequently fails to devote sufficient attention and resources to African affairs. African nations today face enormous obstacles to development and political stability. The United States has a vital national interest in helping African nations to develop workable solutions to provide people with freedom, economic opportunity, and functioning governments.

The conferees expect that the establishment of this panel will generate greater interest in the importance of Sub-Saharan Africa. In calling for this panel, the conferees recognize the complex issues facing Africa and the limited budgetary resources available to help policymakers address these problems.

The conferees acknowledge the Department's increased efforts in these areas, including the strengthening of the trading relationships spawned by the African Growth and Trade Act, substantially increasing two-way trade with Africa, launching a Sovereign Credit Rating Initiative, increased HIV/AIDS funding, programs to enhance African peacekeeping capabilities, support for UN and regional peacekeeping efforts, and assistance in ending conflicts continent-wide, including in the Sudan and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Assertive engagement between Africa and the United States is vital to U.S. interest and necessary. Africa is a key player in our global war against international terrorism. Africa is also a key supplier of

crucial resources, including oil. The most serious challenge facing Africa today is the AIDS pandemic: its social, economic, and political impact will be devastating for millions of Africans for years to come. In the past decade alone an estimated 17 million Africans died of AIDS. Of the 40 million people infected with HIV worldwide, an estimated 28 million are in sub-Saharan Africa. Civil war continues to plague the continent. The conflict in Sudan continues unabated with two million killed and four million displaced.

It is critically important to strengthen our relations with Africa and formulate a coherent, effective Africa policy. An Africa Policy Advisory Panel could help meet these objectives and explore related issues, including how the United States can most effectively assist in the fight against AIDS/HIV and other infectious deadly diseases in Africa; what role the United States should play in conflict prevention and resolution in Africa; how the United States can use its economic and development assistance more effectively; how the United States should approach recurring natural and man-made humanitarian crisis; what specific measures the United States can take to promote democracy, human rights, religious tolerance, and a free press in Africa; how the United States can help strengthen Africa's institutional capacity to fight international terrorism effectively, and U.S.-Africa security relations; what specific measures the United States can take to increase trade and investment between Africa and the United States.

The conferees expect that this panel will take a fresh look at U.S. policy in the region, focus more attention to the importance of U.S.-African affairs, and make recommendations to the Secretary for specific action.

Trafficking in Persons.- The conferees continue to be concerned about the serious problem of international trafficking in persons. The conferees note the important role given to the Department to monitor and combat trafficking in persons in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386), and the establishment of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) within the Department. The conference agreement includes the costs to continue the operations of this office.

The conferees believe that there must be increased coordination among executive branch agencies and even within the Department of State with respect to the implementation of the Trafficking Victims Prevention Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-386). While the Committee recognizes that efforts have been made by the Interagency Task Force to establish a lower level group of the Senior Policy Advisers' Group, chaired by the Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs, the Department needs to better coordinate day-to-day activities to implement the Act. Current efforts by the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to fulfill a similar function are impeded by the inability to obtain full participation and cooperation from other agencies and offices involved in addressing this critical area. In particular, the Committee is concerned that at times there is unnecessary duplication among the agencies that implement the program and inconsistent or uncoordinated approaches to combating the heinous abuses inherent in trafficking in persons.

In order to improve accountability for government-wide anti-trafficking policies, the conference agreement includes language establishing a

Senior Policy Operating Group, chaired by the Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, who will have enhanced responsibility to help coordinate these programs. It will also provide the Committees and others in Congress a central point to obtain information and affect anti-trafficking programs administered by the U.S. Government. The conferees also expect that such a group will ensure that scarce resources are wisely used. The conferees believe that U.S. Government anti-trafficking programs should deliver coordinated, effective assistance to address all three areas of prevention, protection and prosecution, and such programs should focus on both sex trafficking and trafficking involving labor slavery, just as the Act addresses all such trafficking abuses.

The conferees do not intend to transfer ultimate agency decision-making power to the Operating Group. Its establishment is intended, however, to ensure active interagency discussion and full interagency coordination before and after agency decisions are made regarding significant actions to combat trafficking and to implement the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Where grants are awarded by an agency's field offices abroad, the Operating Group will have to work out a mechanism to ensure that the making of such grants is not impeded while ensuring coordination between the agencies involved and the Operating Group.

Within the amount provided under this heading, the conferees expect the Department to provide sufficient staff positions from within Global Affairs to the TIP Office to assist in the production of the Department's annual report on trafficking in persons. In addition, the recommendation includes an increase of \$500,000 for grants to the

participating organizations in the War Against Trafficking Alliance for activities and services related to preparation, execution and follow-up for an international conference on sex trafficking to be held in Washington, DC. This conference will bring additional international attention to the issues related to sex trafficking, and will be an opportunity to network, share best practices, and develop international plans of action on prevention, prosecution and protection.

Facilities.--The conference agreement includes \$30,448,000 for facilities-related initiatives. This includes \$14,000,000 for the relocation and housing of the staff of the United States Mission to the United Nations in temporary space in anticipation of the construction of a new headquarters building. The funding level also includes an increase of \$16,448,000, and a total funding level of \$31,305,000, to continue the renovation and expansion of the Charleston Financial Services Complex and to cover consolidation costs for functions moving from Washington and the Financial Services Center in Bangkok.

Availability of Reports.-- The conferees recommend that each U.S. Embassy translate into the official language of the host country the report for the host country from the "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices", the "Annual Report on International Religious Freedom", and the "Trafficking in Persons Report" within 30 days of issuance, and post those documents on the embassy website along with the English version.

NATO Interparliamentary Assembly.-- The conference agreement includes such funds as necessary for costs associated with fulfilling United

States responsibilities with regard to hosting the NATO Interparliamentary Assembly in 2003.

Interagency Task Force.-- The conference agreement includes such funds as necessary for costs associated with the establishment of a U.S. Government interagency task force to monitor the United Nations headquarters renovation project.

Worldwide Security Upgrades.--The conference agreement includes \$553,000,000, the full amount requested under Diplomatic and Consular Programs, for the costs of worldwide security upgrades. This funding includes \$418,501,000 to provide full year costs of maintaining base security activities at current levels. These activities include guard services, physical security equipment, armored vehicles, personnel, training and wireless communications.

In addition, the conference agreement includes \$74,000,000 to continue the perimeter/compound security initiative. Through fiscal year 2002, upgrades had been completed at 115 posts. With this funding and additional funding under the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account, upgrades will be completed at an additional 71 posts. The remaining 57 posts are scheduled for completion in fiscal year 2004.

The conference agreement also includes \$21,000,000 for domestic technical and physical security upgrades, \$17,302,000 to improve response to terrorist incidents and potential usage of chemical and biological weapons, and \$22,197,000 to support additional positions in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, including security engineers,

security technicians, and civil service support staff. This increase is on top of 389 new positions provided in fiscal year 2002, which included 277 special agents, 13 security engineers, 18 security technicians and 81 civil service support staff. This staffing increase will ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to address continuing high threat levels overseas, to improve the management of overseas security improvement programs, and also to maintain domestic protective and other responsibilities. The Department shall submit a detailed spending plan by March 1, 2002, for the entire amount provided for worldwide security upgrades, subject to the regular reprogramming requirements. This spending plan shall include a complete and thorough accounting of prior year security funds.

Right-Sizing the U.S. Government Presence Overseas.--The conferees expect the Department to continue efforts to develop interagency mechanisms to better coordinate, rationalize and manage the overall deployment of U.S. Government personnel overseas. The conferees continue to expect that right-sizing can result in significant overall budget savings. Right-sizing is also discussed under the Embassy Security, Construction and Maintenance account.

Border Security Program.--The Department's budget request includes funding of \$642,731,000 for the Department's Border Security program, to be entirely funded through collection of Machine Readable Visa fees. Since the submission of that budget request there has been a decline in fee revenue resulting from a reduction in the number of visa applications received. In addition, changes in programmatic emphasis have resulted from new laws as well as Departmental reviews of consular processes, procedures and policies.

These factors have led the Department to propose a new fiscal year 2003 budget for the Border Security Program totaling \$616,821,000, a reduction of \$25,910,000 from the original requested level. This adjusted level of operations includes a program increase of 52 new consular positions, reflecting projected workload increases in relation to visa applications, passport adjudications, citizen services and associated management. The new budget estimate includes \$70,100,000, an increase of \$15,000,000 over the original estimate, in the modernization and support area. This increase will fund software development to implement collection of a biometric in the visa and to support an expanded data share requirement with other agencies.

The conferees urge the Department to continue to work on an interagency basis to strengthen the visa process to make it an effective anti-terrorism tool, while avoiding the creation of unnecessary barriers or delays to legitimate travel to the United States. In this regard, the conferees expect the Department to submit a report by March 31, 2003, detailing all the changes to the visa application review process since September 11, 2001, and establishing a program spending plan and timetable for any further improvements or enhancements.

Based on information from the Department, the conferees estimate there will be \$89,727,000 in carryover funds from fiscal year 2002 available to support the fiscal year 2003 program. The conferees continue to support Bureau of Consular Affairs efforts to implement the diversity visa program.

Saudi Arabia.--The conferees are gravely disappointed by reports that American citizens seeking refuge and assistance have been turned away at the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The conferees expect the Department and the Embassy to follow the stated Department goal to support U.S. citizens abroad and those concerned about them in the United States, and to take every step possible within current law to ensure that any American citizens seeking refuge in similar cases are not treated in a similar fashion.

Minority Recruitment and Hiring.--The Department is directed to provide \$1,500,000 to continue its educational partnership begun in fiscal year 2001 with Hostos Community College and Columbia University in New York. This model program will support the Department's ongoing efforts to increase minority hiring and diversity by facilitating the preparation of non-traditional and minority students for careers in the Foreign Service and the State Department. The conferees also expect the Department to continue base funding for an ongoing partnership with Howard University. With regard to this partnership, the funding is provided to support the Department's efforts to enhance the diversity of the U.S. diplomatic corps by increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in foreign relations and international affairs careers. These resources are to continue and expand the successful collaborative partnership between the Department and Howard University to recruit and prepare students from various institutions with large minority populations for positions in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Overseas Schools.--The conferees commend the Consolidated Overseas Schools Assistance Program for its effective work in improving the quality of education for children of U.S. citizens living overseas. The

program fulfills a dual purpose of providing a high quality, American-style education for children of U.S. citizens assigned overseas and introducing the best in American educational practices to children of and educators of other nations. In addition, the conferees commend the Overseas Schools Advisory Council, which helps bring educational excellence to American-sponsored overseas schools through the enhancement projects of the Council's annual Educational Assistance Program. Further, the Council successfully encourages financial support to these schools from U.S. corporations and foundations, as well as volunteer participation in activities of the schools by U.S. firms' overseas employees and their spouses.

Office of Defense Trade Controls (ODTC).--The conferees note the efforts of the ODTC to streamline licensing processes and to reduce response times without compromising national security. However, despite improvements, the conferees remain concerned that compliance with existing regulations is increasingly problematic for small businesses, and has contributed to a drop-off in foreign sales for the U.S. satellite industry. The conferees are aware of additional concerns that some small businesses active in the manufacture and export of defense articles are unaware of the existence of the ODTC and export regulations. To deal with these concerns, the conferees expect the ODTC, within the level of funding provided under this account, to provide a point of contact and start-up guidance to small businesses and other new registrants, and to ensure they receive appropriate consideration. In addition, ODTC should develop training tools accessible to such small businesses, and other outreach efforts, as appropriate.

Extradition.--The conferees expect the Department to work with the Department of Justice to bolster efforts to negotiate effective extradition treaties.

Security of Classified Material.--Consistent with the report submitted to the Committees on Appropriations in 2002 regarding the number of containers used for storage of classified material that are not in compliance with Federal specifications, the recommendation includes such sums as necessary to continue efforts to replace such locks.

Art in Embassies.--The conferees support efforts to conduct collaborative art projects for display on-site at U.S. Embassies. Such projects can create a low-cost medium for dialogue and interaction, and can increase understanding of common interests and the free exchange of ideas. Within available funds, up to \$1,000,000 may be used for this initiative.

New Post Openings.--The conferees are concerned that the Department is taking actions to establish new overseas posts before any request is transmitted to the appropriate Congressional committees, thereby undermining the purposes of Congressional review and Committee reprogramming requirements. The conferees remind the Department that the establishment of a new Department Office or post overseas is subject to section 605 reprogramming procedures. The conferees expect that any such proposals will, whenever possible, be included in the Department's annual budget submission, and will include a full accounting of the anticipated costs of such proposals. The Conferees remind the Department that decisions by the Committees on Appropriations to open new posts are based on overall U.S. foreign

policy objectives, right-sizing considerations, and on the resource limitations of the Department. Such decisions are made irrespective of any unofficial or unauthorized presence the post might have established prior to the Department's submission of a formal request to the Committees on Appropriations.

Security Training and Enhancements.--Explosive growth in numbers of personnel in the Bureau of Diplomatic Security [DS] has created an imbalance between seasoned and unseasoned agents that can only be solved with time. The total number of DS agents now stands at 1,150, with just under half of these agents having been hired in fiscal years 2001 and 2002. The Committee therefore directs that DS utilize a portion of the funding provided under Frontline Security Readiness for the training of new agents.

Additionally, the conferees remain concerned about the Department's decisions relating to the placement of DS agents. This is a time of heightened threat to our overseas posts, as demonstrated by recent attacks against U.S. diplomatic and military installations around the world. Given this security environment, the conferees are concerned that too few agents are stationed overseas compared with the number on assignment in the United States. The conferees direct the Secretary of State to submit a staffing plan for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security to the Committees on Appropriations by June 1, 2003.

At this time of heightened threat to American posts abroad, the benefits of the security enhancement funds the Committees have provided to the Department since the Dar and Nairobi bombings in 1998 are being realized. The most recent indicator of improved physical security at

U.S. posts overseas came on June 14, 2002, when a suicide bomber detonated a 500-pound fertilizer bomb outside the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi. The physical damage to the building was minimized due to recent security upgrades to the embassy compound. The Consulate's perimeter wall had recently been reinforced, and barriers installed between the wall and the street prevented the vehicle from reaching the building. Shatter resistant window film also significantly mitigated damage from the blast. An earlier reconfiguration of interior office space, undertaken to provide additional blast separation, also proved helpful. Continual security upgrades to existing properties are as important as the Department's Capital Security Construction program. Accordingly, the conference report includes full funding for worldwide security upgrades.

Host country relations.--The conference agreement includes up to \$2,000,000 out of available funds to continue the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. U.S. Ambassadors serving in less developed countries may submit competitive proposals for awards for one-time or recurring projects. Awards will be based on the importance of the site, the country's need, and the potential of the award to make a meaningful contribution to the preservation of the site, object, or form of expression. The Department is directed to submit an annual report to the Committees on Appropriations on winning projects.

International Center for Muslim-Western Dialogue.--The conference agreement for the Embassy Security Construction and Maintenance account includes funding for the restoration of the original U.S. consular facility in Istanbul, Turkey. The conferees direct that the facility be used as an International Center for Muslim-Western Dialogue, the

mission of which shall be to promote democracy. The conferees direct the Secretary to collaborate with existing non-profit organizations that focus on Western-Muslim relations such as the Asia Foundation, the National Endowment for Democracy, and other U.S.-based centers for Islamic studies in developing a plan for the creation and administration of the Center. The conferees encourage the non-profit organizations involved in the planning of the Center to play a continuing role both in the administration of the Center and in the execution of its programs. The Department is directed to submit this plan to the Committees on Appropriations no later than September 1, 2003.

Language training.--Several reports have identified a serious shortage within the Federal Government of personnel who possess the language skills required for their positions. This challenge appears particularly acute at the Department of State where language skills are directly linked to the execution of the Core Missions. Reliable aggregate data on the language capabilities of Foreign Service Officers [FSOs] is, however, not generally available or, when available, is seriously flawed. The Department has indicated that the primary factor contributing to its inability to meet its language staffing and proficiency goals is an overall staffing shortfall of more than 1,100 people, as identified in the Department's Diplomatic Hiring Report. This report led the Department to propose the Diplomatic Readiness Initiative, a program under which a projected 1,158 new Foreign Service Officers will be hired over a 3-year period. However, the Diplomatic Readiness Initiative does little to address the specific problem of language proficiency at the Department. Funds available for salaries should be leveraged to provide pay incentives to FSOs who gain

expertise in hard-to-learn languages, to provide an attractive career path for linguists, to enhance the retention of FSOs with desired language skills, and to provide ample training opportunities to FSOs willing to learn a difficult language mid-career. Funds provided for workforce retention should also be utilized to recruit native speakers of difficult and hard to fill languages, drawing upon the vast human resources afforded by a demographically diverse United States. Language proficiency must be a criterion in the selection of FSOs. If our diplomats truly are our "first line of defense" against foreign threats, then their ability to converse fluently in the languages of the countries to which they are posted is critical to national security. The conferees direct the Department to develop a plan to address the problem of foreign language proficiency, particularly as it concerns difficult languages, and to submit the plan to the Committees on Appropriations no later than July 1, 2003. The conferees further direct the Department to collaborate with the Committees during the preparation of the fiscal year 2004 appropriations bill so that immediate funding requirements associated with improving foreign language proficiency can be met as soon as possible.

Continuing language education.--Language skills ensure that dependents of Department of State personnel are not overwhelmed by isolation and alienation, resulting in lowered post morale. The conference agreement includes up to \$10,000,000 for continuing language education programs for both employees and dependents at posts worldwide. Language classes should also be open to non-State Department (Federal) employees on a space-available, reimbursable basis.

Office of Foreign Missions.--The conferees are aware of concerns that the Office of Foreign Missions [OFM] may be more appropriately aligned organizationally with other management functions, rather than with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The conferees expect the Department to submit a report to the Committees by June 1, 2003, reassessing organizational issues with regard to OFM, and including any recommendations for changes.

International conservation of sea turtles.--The conferees remain concerned with the increasing threat to sea turtles, particularly those listed under the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES], from incidental capture by foreign fishing fleets, particularly in the longline fishery. The Department has ignored Committee direction for the past 2 years. Specifically, the Department ignored direction stating that the Secretary should, on an expedited basis, negotiate strong, enforceable management, reporting, and data collection measures (including economic measures) focused on reducing incidental capture of sea turtles in commercial fisheries under regional management agreements for living marine resources. These agreements include the Inter-American Sea Turtle Conservation Treaty, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention, the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean (the Multilateral High Level Conference). The conferees are concerned that no international agreements specifically addressing turtle by-catch from longline fishing have been negotiated, and the Department has negotiated only voluntary initiatives rather than binding agreements to this end.

The conferees expect the Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, to use all appropriate means available to broaden the participation of other nations in the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Species in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean. Of the funding provided for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, not less than \$750,000 shall be for negotiating, in consultation with the Department of Commerce, a binding agreement providing for annual reductions in sea turtle mortality in the longline fisheries of the Western and Central Pacific, that shall, by 2008, result in at least a 30 percent reduction in takes, and thereafter result in such fisheries meeting sea turtle take levels comparable to those achieved by the U.S. longline fleet.

Conservation enhancements.--The conferees are concerned that non-U.S. parties to the International Dolphin Conservation Program (IDCP), of which the United States is a member, are not fully complying with the requirements of the IDCP, particularly with respect to accurate reporting of dolphin interactions and mortality. The conferees expect the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Commerce, and in consultation with key U.S. stakeholders, to evaluate and document any lack of compliance by the non-U.S. parties to the IDCP with its provisions, including through on-site visits and discussions with government officials, observers and others with first-hand knowledge of country practices, and to submit a written report describing the findings to the Committees no later than September 30, 2003. The report should include an evaluation of compliance with the on-board observer program, including a comparison of the reporting frequency of national observers as compared to IATTC observers; reporting of dolphin

interactions and mortality; operational requirements for vessels; the extent to which vessels with a carrying capacity of 400 short tons or less are setting on dolphins, and actions by parties to report and follow-up on infractions identified by the international review panel. The conferees also expect the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Commerce, to seek measures to strengthen the IDCP to reduce impacts from setting on dolphin populations in the ETP other than reported mortalities, including expanding the application of the IATTC observer program to include vessels with a carrying capacity of 400 short tons or less, requiring measures that will reduce cow-calf separation, limiting the number of sets on dolphins, and limiting the dolphin herd sizes on which sets are made. Of the funding provided for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, not less than \$750,000 is for these negotiations.

International trade.--In past years the Department has attempted to pursue enhancements for international trade activities that fall more appropriately under the jurisdiction of the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration, and in particular under the jurisdiction of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service. The conference agreement does not include funding for any new initiatives with regard to expansion of international trade activities. In addition, the conferees expect that the Department will not unnecessarily impede any legal and appropriate technical discussions between the United States Department of Agriculture and Cuba's Agriculture ministry regarding health standard certifications for agricultural products exported from the United States to Cuba.

Secure Card Technology.--The conferees are aware that the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City began issuing secure laser visa border crossing cards to Mexican visitors in May, 2002. The conferees direct the Department, in consultation with the Immigration and Naturalization service, to report no later than May 5, 2003 on the success of this secure visa issuance program in Mexico City. The report should provide recommendations to the Committees regarding the expansion of this visa issuance process to all visa types and the potential for application of the secure card technology at U.S. foreign missions.

Fingerprint services.--The conferees expect U.S. embassies and consulates with fingerprinting capabilities to fingerprint aliens seeking first-time flight training in aircraft weighing 12,500 pounds or more and transmit those fingerprints to the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies for the purposes of checking fingerprints against appropriate terrorist watch-lists.

International Child Abductions.--The conferees remain concerned about the adequacy of the Department's efforts to counter the serious problem of international child abductions. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations which includes the following information: the country, location, and number of all known U.S. citizens under the age of 18 who have been abducted by a parent or relative as the result of a custody dispute and who are being held abroad in contravention of U.S. laws or judicial orders; a summary of actions taken by the Department of State to secure the repatriation of abducted American children; and a list of diplomatic measures, including treaties and agreements, that can be used to facilitate the repatriation of abducted American children. The

conferees expect the Department to complete and release the State Department's report on compliance with the Hague Convention on the International Aspects of Child Abduction. The Hague Convention, which the United States and many of our Allies have signed, is in place to facilitate the return of internationally abducted children to their countries of ``habitual residence'' for custody determination. The conferees recognize the importance of compliance with the Hague Convention and request this report be sent to the Committee on Appropriations no later than March 31, 2003. The conference agreement includes such funds as necessary to be used for an international conference on best practices in adoption. The conference would promote cooperation among the U.S. and other countries in support of the Hague Convention.

Globalization.— Within available funding, up to \$1,000,000 may be available, if merited, to support the Globalization Research Network [GRN] research consortium. The consortium conducts interdisciplinary, international studies of pressing problems faced by humanity. Any funding allocated to this activity shall be proposed through the regular reprogramming process.

Financial Operations.—Over the past several years the Department of State has made significant improvements in its financial operations. For the past six years, the Department has had clean audited financial statements. Additionally, the Department has been streamlining and centralizing its overseas and domestic financial operations in Charleston, South Carolina. The conferees are aware that the Office of Management and Budget has undertaken an effort to consolidate payroll operations among the Federal agencies. From Charleston, the Department

currently pays over 25,000 Americans both domestically and overseas and over 35,000 local national employees in 180 different countries, bi-weekly, in local currencies. Before the Department expends any resources to join a consolidated payroll effort, the Committees on Appropriations are to be notified through the reprogramming process of any such plans and how this will affect staffing, and represent a cost savings to the taxpayer.

Changes from the Budget Request.-- As in previous years, the conferees expect that there will be additional savings available to the Department, including exchange rate gains and vacancies in funded positions. The Department will have the ability to propose that savings be used for needs not funded by the recommendation through the normal reprogramming process.

capital investment fund

The conference agreement includes \$183,311,000 for the Capital Investment Fund. In addition, the conferees expect that \$86,000,000 in expedited passport fees will be used to support the information technology modernization effort, for a total fiscal year 2003 spending availability of \$269,311,000.

The entire amount available under this heading, including fees, will support investments in new information technologies and infrastructure to improve the efficiency of Department operations. Costs associated with ongoing information technology operations and maintenance are

included under the Diplomatic and Consular Programs account, as in fiscal year 2002.

The conference agreement provides the full requested amounts for two major technology initiatives:

--\$94,235,000 for the Classified Connectivity Project (CCP). This amount will enable the Department to replace obsolete computer and communications equipment that posts use for classified operations. The Committee views this project as the Department's highest priority technology investment activity, and expects the Department to achieve installation of CCP connectivity in all eligible posts by October 1, 2003. The Committee is willing to consider a reprogramming of funding under this account if additional resources are required to achieve this timetable.

--\$36,500,000 for the OpenNet Plus project. This amount will enable the Department to complete the expansion of desktop Internet access to all Department employees worldwide during fiscal year 2003. The Committee expects that, by April 30, 2003, 100 percent of bureaus and eligible posts overseas will have OpenNet Plus installed and operating, and 100 percent of Internet users Department-wide will have only one computer with Internet and Intranet access at their desktops.

The conference agreement includes a total of \$17,000,000 for the Integrated Messaging and Foreign Affairs Systems Integration (FASI) initiatives, and \$7,345,000 for public key infrastructure requirements. The Department shall report to the Committee no later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act on results of the FASI pilots in fiscal year

2002, and a program and financial plan for fiscal year 2003 to establish secure interagency communications using a public key infrastructure.

The Committee directs that the Chief Information Officer of the Department develop an annex to the existing IT Strategic Plan which outlines in detail the Department's 5-year strategy for maintaining and upgrading its existing IT infrastructure. This strategy will help ensure that the significant investments made in the last 2 years are not lost, and that the Department's current IT infrastructure is leveraged both to capitalize on these prior investments and to meet the needs of the Department. The Department is directed to submit this annex to the Committees on Appropriations no later than September 1, 2003.

The conferees direct the Department to submit, by April 30, 2003, an updated performance report for the Classified Connectivity and OpenNet Plus projects. This report should include a corresponding implementation timetable, a multi-year funding requirement table, and specific efficiencies and savings resulting from each project.

The conferees direct the Bureau of Human Resources, in consultation with the Chief Information Officer of the Department, to report to the Committees on Appropriations on how the Department plans to meet its short and long-term human capital needs in the area of information technology. The report should address such issues as pay incentives, specialized recruitment strategies, and preventing attrition to the private sector.

The conferees support the trend at the Department towards the central management of information. The conferees are aware that, at a time of increased threat to our overseas posts, the ability to store and manage information, particularly classified information, domestically can greatly enhance the security of that information. One technology that appears particularly promising is the high-assurance virtual wide area network [WAN]. This technology would allow the Department to minimize the information stored at post and permit computer terminals to be ``sanitized'' of sensitive information when not in use. Within the funds made available under this account for Centrally Managed Infrastructure, the Department shall institute a pilot project to develop a high-assurance virtual WAN architecture and prototype in support of Department of State activities. Up to \$8,000,000 may be made available for this purpose, subject to reprogramming. The conferees expect the Bureau of Information Resource Management to collaborate closely with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) and with other relevant agencies on this pilot project. This will ensure that any technologies employed by the Department to centrally manage its information meet all of the security requirements set forth by DS and by other relevant agencies. The conferees direct the Department to present a preliminary plan for this project within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

office of inspector general

The conference agreement includes \$29,264,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). The Inspector General conducts oversight at the State Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors. The conference

agreement includes funding for OIG oversight of the Department's efforts to implement worldwide security upgrades.

The conference agreement includes language, as in previous years, waiving the statutory requirement that every post be inspected every five years, in order to provide greater flexibility to the Inspector General to use resources in the most productive areas. The Department shall report to the Committees by July 4, 2003 on the OIG's post inspection regime, and the need for the continuation of waiver language in future fiscal years. The conferees believe that the OIG can achieve the statutory post inspection requirements within existing resource levels by re-engineering inspection processes and reprioritizing tasks.

educational and cultural exchange programs

The conference agreement includes a total of \$245,306,000 for the Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs of the Department of State. In addition to the amount provided under this heading, the Department expects to receive transfers from accounts in other appropriations acts for exchange programs, primarily with nations of east and central Europe, and of the former Soviet Union. The following chart displays the conference agreement on the distribution of funds by program or activity under this account, including an estimated \$5,754,000 in prior year recoveries:

Amount
(in thousands)

Academic Programs:

Fulbright Students, Scholars, Teachers	123,000
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowships	6,000
Foreign Study Grants for U.S. Undergraduates	1,575
Educational Advising and Student Services	3,600
English Language Programs	4,335
American Overseas Research Centers	2,500
South Pacific Exchanges	500
Tibet Exchanges	500
East Timor Exchanges	500
Disability Exchange Clearinghouse	500
Subtotal, Academic Programs	<u>143,010</u>

Professional and Cultural Programs:

International Visitor Program	50,365
Citizen Exchange Program	17,000
Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange	3,000
Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program	2,200
Youth Science Leadership Institute of the Americas	100
Special Olympics	150
Africa Workforce Development Exchanges	300
National Forensics League	250
George Mitchell Scholarship Program	500
PSC US-Pakistan Educator Development	250
Institute for Representative Government	500
Irish Institute	275
Rule of Law Forum - SMU	800
Winter Cities Conference	100
Girls International Forum	200
Atlantic Corridor	275
Interparliamentary Exchanges with Asia/Africa	400
Subtotal, Professional and Cultural Exchanges:	<u>76,665</u>

North/South Center 500

Exchanges Support 30,885

Prior Year Balances Applied: (5,754)

Total, Exchange Programs: 245,306

Deviations from this distribution of funds will be subject to the normal reprogramming procedures under section 605 of this Act.

The Committee recognizes that international education and exchange programs are critical components of U.S. national security and foreign policy. In light of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 this type of engagement with the world is more important than ever. International educational and exchange programs enable the United States to augment the foreign language and foreign area expertise of each successive generation of rising leaders, prepare U.S. students to function effectively in a global environment through study abroad, and promote international understanding through professional, scholarly, and citizen exchanges.

The Conference agreement includes funding for citizen exchange programs (including continued base funding for the American Council of Young Political Leaders exchanges and the Congress-Bundestag Program). With respect to the Congress-Bundestag Program, the conferees intend that the amount provided will support 380 exchanges in fiscal year 2003, the same level as in fiscal year 2002. The conference agreement also includes funding for African workforce development exchanges (including funding for the AFTECH virtual university initiative) and funding for the Disability Exchange Clearinghouse. The conferees continue to support the goal of increasing the number and quality of exchange opportunities for people with disabilities. The conferees expect the Department to submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations within 90 days of enactment of this Act detailing current efforts to make exchange

opportunities available for people with disabilities and a plan to increase such opportunities in the future.

The conference agreement includes funding for enhanced programs to engage Arab and Muslim audiences through educational and cultural exchanges. The conferees expect this funding to continue and expand the programs funded from fiscal year 2002 supplemental appropriations, including Fulbright Exchanges (including American Studies), English Language Programs (including English Language Fellows), US/Afghan Women's Council exchanges, Values/Religious Tolerance programs, Media Training Exchanges, and American Studies programs. The conferees expect the Department to allocate at least 15 percent of the fiscal year 2003 appropriations provided under this heading to the Near East region, and at least 10 percent of such funds to the South Asia region. Should additional recoveries become available under this heading, the conferees expect the Department to allocate such funds to programs to engage Arab and Muslim audiences on a priority basis.

Of the funds provided for the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the conferees expect that necessary funds will be for a grant for research to develop a diamond fingerprinting technology that will facilitate the monitoring of the international trade in conflict diamonds.

The conferees expect the Department to submit a proposal for the programmatic and geographic distribution of available resources (including all unobligated balances and recoveries) through the normal reprogramming process within 60 days from the date of enactment of this Act. Within available funds under this account, the conferees encourage

the Department to consider supporting the Israel/Arab Peace Partners, and African Career Internship Immersion Programs.

The conferees expect that the overall funding distribution will conform to the geographical guidance above. The conferees further expect that this distribution of available resources will separately identify any amounts allocated to subsidize the administrative expenses of programs that are not funded by amounts appropriated under this heading.

The conferees support the continuation of regional scholars and graduate exchange fellowship programs with the former Soviet Union, such as the Muskie Ph.D. program, and expect that these activities will be funded from within amounts transferred from other appropriations. In the event that these programs are not adequately funded from other appropriations, the conferees would entertain a proposal to fund such programs from this appropriation through the regular reprogramming process.

The conference agreement includes a limitation of not to exceed \$2,000,000 on the use of fees or other payments received from or in connection with English teaching, educational advising and counseling, and exchange visitor programs as authorized by law.

The conferees are aware of the economic and cultural exchange program, as well as the proposed "sister state" relationship being developed between the Tver Region of the Russian Federation and the State of Louisiana. The conferees support these efforts and encourage the Department to consider providing assistance to the Louisiana-Tver Region of Russia international exchange program.